



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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DRUG DEALER INVOLVED IN POLICE CHASE SENTENCED TO ALMOST 4 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

PHOENIX – Eric M. Ruiz , 23, of Casa Grande, Ariz., was sentenced here today by U.S. District Judge Roslyn O. Silver to 46 months in federal prison. Ruiz pleaded guilty on November 19, 2008, to Possession with Intent to Distribute (50 kilograms or more but less than 100 kilograms of) Marijuana.

In February 2007, Ruiz was driving a vehicle that failed to yield to a Tohono O'odham police officer on Federal Route 15 in Arizona. A pursuit of Ruiz's vehicle ensued and the pursuit was joined by U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Due to his speed and driving, Ruiz ultimately lost control of the vehicle and it flipped and rolled over several times. Ruiz was ejected from the vehicle and seriously injured. Also ejected from the vehicle were seven bundles of marijuana with a total weight of 147.9 pounds.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Border Patrol and the Tohono O'odham Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Howard D. Sukenic, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-070370-PHX-ROS
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-030(Ruiz)

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